



# Georgia Dept of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START

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**Brian P. Kemp**  
Governor

**Amy M. Jacobs**  
Commissioner

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## MEMORANDUM

**Subject:** Expiring Flexibility Guidance Regarding the Updated CACFP Meal Patterns

**Date:** August 16, 2021

**Legal Authority:** 7 CFR 226.6

**Cross Reference:** This memorandum supersedes the DECAL policy memorandum, *Flexibility Guidance – Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns*, October 1, 2020 (v2).

**Applies To:** CACFP Institutions and Sponsors

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated guidance regarding the updated meal pattern requirements and expiring flexibilities associated with the requirements.

**Definitions:** N/A

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## Program Requirements

Approximately five [5] years ago, on April 25, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the final rule entitled, “Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.” Its primary function was to update the CACFP meal pattern requirements as well as the meal pattern requirements for both infants and preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP. Participating institutions and sponsors were notified that each had to comply with the new rule change effective October 1, 2017.

During FY 2021, flexibilities were granted to Program operators who continued to experience challenges with meeting the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements. Sponsors and institutions were provided a transition period in which only technical assistance was provided if new meal pattern requirements were not met (meal pattern requirements that were NOT new were still subject to meal reclaims and disallowances).

Beginning **October 1, 2021**, this transition period will end as program operators have had several years to adjust their meal operations to incorporate the new meal patterns. As a result, program operators may

receive meal reclaims and disallowances if the new meal pattern requirements are not met. To ensure your success with meeting the updated CACFP meal pattern requirements, we have referenced several resources below.

- [ICN Child and Adult Care Meal Pattern Requirements Training](#)
- [Serving Milk in CACFP Worksheet \[English\] \[Spanish\]](#)
- [Recorded CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays – Serving Milk in CACFP](#)
- [Grain Requirements in the CACFP; Questions & Answers, May 3, 2018](#)
- [Exhibit A: Grain Requirements for Child Nutrition Programs](#)
- [Transition Period for the Updated Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns and the Updated National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program Infant and Preschool Meal Patterns, June 7, 2017 \(v.2 August 16, 2021\)](#)

**Comments:**

For questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Nutrition's Policy Administrator at (404) 651-8193.